

MINUTES

Judicial Education Committee Meeting
30 South Meridian Street, Suite 900
January 29, 2010
1:15-3:45 p.m.

Members in attendance: John Rader (chair), Mark Bailey, Ted Boehm, Jane Spencer Craney, Darrin Dolehanty, Sherry Biddinger Gregg, Steve Heimann, Bill Hughes, Robyn Moberly, Susan Orth (conference phone), Earl Penrod, and Mary Willis.

Staff: Cathy Springer, Vicki Davis, Anne Jordan and Barbara Harcourt (conference phone).

1. **Minutes from the October 9, 2009 Meeting.** The minutes were approved as submitted.
2. **Review of previous conferences.**
 - a. The Domestic Relations Workshop was held on November 19-20, 2009. Thursday's program focused on the new child support guidelines. Using scenarios, faculty members from the Domestic Relations Committee walked through a number of different situations applying the revised guidelines. Additional time was needed for the discussion. Friday's program centered on the father's involvement after divorce with Marsha Kline Pruett, Ph.D. Ms. Pruett's material was well received although many of her statistics were dated.
 - b. Winter Conference, December 11, 2009. Approximately 180 judicial officers attended the one day program on "Exploring the Brain." Dr. Jill Bolte Taylor explored how the two hemispheres of the brain process information differently yet simultaneously, as well as personality types and the brain. In the afternoon, Dr. George Parker reviewed the role of personality and biology in violent behavior during his presentation on "The Criminal Mind." The conference received very good evaluations from attendees.
3. **Discussion on plans for major conferences in 2010.**
 - a. Staff reviewed the courses being planned for the Spring Judicial College program, April 14-16th. With the exception of one full day program, all of the Spring Judicial College courses will be half-day programs. A copy of the schedule was distributed. Staff discussed faculty lined up for the programs and solicited committee advice on the content/focus for the course on dynamics of domestic violence. Susan Orth asked whether we were looking for a program focusing on the beginning or end of a DV case. Bill Hughes noted that judges could benefit from an understanding of the dynamic of such cases and that what happens in one case in the courtroom impacts the dynamics of what is happening in the family as well as the other potential cases. For example, there may be the

underlying DV prosecution, a CHINS, protection order, dissolution, and an invasion of privacy. A suggestion was made to focus on the review of the cycle of DV, understanding the “frequent flyers” and keeping an open mind, lethality factors, and protection orders. Steve Heimann asked whether Sarah Buel was still active in the domestic violence arena.

- b. The Annual Meeting of Juvenile Court Judicial Officers will be held on June 24-25 in Indianapolis. The topics being developed include: a review of the federal program, “Fostering Connections;” establishing paternity; and fatherhood involvement.
- c. The Annual Meeting of the Judicial Conference of Indiana will be held September 21-23 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. This conference will be held Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday this year. A list of session topics was distributed. Some sessions have been confirmed. Staff asked for keynote speaker recommendations. Jane Craney noted Sandra Day O’Connor may be more accessible than we think.
- d. The Pre-Bench Orientation Program is scheduled for December 2-3, 2010. Staff noted a potential agenda has been discussed.
- e. The Winter Conference is December 9, 2010. Some suggestions noted include CourTools/judicial performance, domestic violence, the culture of poverty, complex litigation, the intersection of courts and technology. Staff noted they would check with other committees for ideas as well.

4. Additional items for discussion.

- a. Staff reported on the status of the proposed changes to Rule 29 increasing CLE requirements for judges from 36 hours to 54 hours and requiring 18 hours of continuing judicial education. The proposal is out for comment to a four member subcommittee of the Indiana Continuing Legal Education Commission. Vicki will meet with Julia Orzeske to discuss/incorporate any concerns from that subcommittee and will then discuss next steps with Jane Seigel.
- b. Staff noted that Indiana Continuing Legal Education Forum (ICLEF) has submitted a proposal to the Continuing Legal Education Commission to change the reporting period to July-June (from January-December) because the current reporting period places attorneys under significant stress trying to complete CLE hours at the end of the year during inclement weather conditions, traditional holiday season and busy end-of-year work deadlines. ICLEF also recommended increasing the minimum annual requirement 12 hours (up from the current 6 hours annual requirement).
- c. 2009 curriculum grid was distributed and briefly discussed.

5. Challenges and opportunities for judicial education. Bill Hughes facilitated an open discussion by the committee on our hopes, dreams, challenges and opportunities for judicial education. Members were asked to respond to the question of why did you want to be on the committee and what do you see happening with judicial education. The following comments were made.

- a. Judicial branch education is the heart of what the Center does. While judicial education is not broken, we need to be sure we are continuing to meeting people's needs particularly as we experience the upcoming retirement of our education director having 30 years of experience in judicial education; increases in educational requirements; and decreasing budgets.
- b. Re-think how we can cut expenses and costs at conferences. Consider public meeting space available at little to no expense; trimming food/beverage expenses by having "meals on your own" if the venue supports such an option.
- c. As we discuss at committee meetings what we've done and what we will be doing at upcoming conferences, we also have a bigger responsibility to discuss what we should be doing, are we meeting needs and are there areas/topics that they need but don't know that they need. The committee needs to be the eyes and ears of the judiciary for the staff. The orientation program is one of the best programs that we offer, and we should be "orienting" everyone all of the time. We might want to consider doing a program on judicial education as a substantive session at a conference to facilitate a discussion among the general populace about judicial education.
- d. Value of committee work and conferences is the social networking that is available and provides the opportunity to communicate with people you normally don't have much contact with on a daily basis. Perhaps we should contact ICLEF, Prosecuting Attorneys Council and the Public Defender Council and ask them what their clientele tell them about what judges need to be aware of or know.
- e. Provide more faculty development opportunities.
- f. Balance the presentation by an expert with actual application of the concept.
- g. We should conduct a needs assessment. Although the conference evaluations are helpful, they generally are reactive, not reflective about needs.
- h. We should consider what role the committee has in making changes, in terms of what we offer or the way we offer education. We should be agents of change, and we "shouldn't just keep on keeping on." The members briefly discussed the Leadership Institute in Judicial Education and the work of Pat Murrell.
- i. The committee should develop a vision and long term policy for implementation. We should look at coming up with a 5 -year curriculum plan with core classes that could be delivered other than by face-to-face conferences. We should explore alternative delivery methods for education that would allow us to expand/increase what is offered and to maximize the full value of the limited face-to-face time that we have. Mentoring is another avenue to be explored as it allows for simultaneous teacher/student learning.
- j. The value of the committee and conference is the opportunity to re-evaluate your thinking and to be exposed to alternative ways of doing things.
- k. We need to remember to include in our education wellness, balance and judge's taking care of themselves on a professional and personal level.
- l. The value of the collegiality at conferences can never be under emphasized. We need to balance the nuts/bolts sessions with those that encourage judges to step

outside of their comfort zone. Judges often feel isolated and need opportunities to communicate with other judges. The email list-serve for the 2009 new judges has been a great way for one group of judges to stay in contact with each other, and allows them daily assistance from one another as well as the faculty members participating in the list-serve.

- m. The Strategic Plan may alter both the delivery of education and the collegiality. We may need to do more to foster district collegiality.
- n. Materials and the delivery of conference materials should be re-evaluated. We should consider posting materials prior to or shortly after the conference assuming faculty permission. The committee discussed the need for a secure website.
- o. The committee discussed offering early bird, late bird, and having district meetings in conjunction with conferences.

6. Next Meeting Date: The next committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 14th from 1:15-3:30 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Davis
Assistant Education Director